

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT PETITION. PAYING INFLATED PHONE BILLS CAN TAKE THE FOOD OFF YOUR TABLE. I HAD THAT EXPERIENCE WHEN I WAS WITH V_R_Z_N(YOU KNOW, BUT I DON'T NEED TO GET SUED). THE LAWYERS FOR ALL THESE PHONE COMPANIES USE THE MOST CONFUSING &/OR RARELY USED WORDS TO TRICK US INTO PAYING MORE! WE'VE BEEN CHEATED FOR DECADES DUE TO THIS. IT'S A SHAME THE GOVERNMENT HASN'T STEPPED IN A LONG TIME AGO. MAYBE CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS ARE BENEFITTING SOME WAY TO KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT ABOUT IT. GOD KNOWS. ALL I KNOW IS THAT NUMEROUS PEOPLE I'VE TALKED TO HAVE STATED THE FACT THAT THEY FEEL DECIEVED, CHEATED & TRICKED INTO PAYING FOR BOGUS FEE'S. IT'S NOT RIGHT! THE PHONE COMPANIES TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT WE DON'T KNOW BETTER MOST TIMES. THEREFORE, WE PAY MORE & MORE & MORE. SOME OF US HAVE DISABILITIES THAT PREVENT US FROM UNDERSTANDING TOO. IT'S A SHAME THE PHONE COMPANIES HAVE NO SHAME IN DOING THIS. HAVE THEY NO CONSCIENCE? IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
SINCERELY & RESPECTFULLY, VICTORIA
STONG/CIVIL RIGHTS & COMMUNITY ACTIVIST.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.